

Testimony on HB 4576 before House Local Government and Urban Policy Committee on 6-15-05 by Donald Kaufman, President Lake Lansing Property Owners Association.

I am Don Kaufman the President of LLPOA. Lake Lansing is a 450 acre lake located in Haslett, Meridian Township, Ingham Co. and is the only fully recreational lake in the immediate mid Michigan area. LLPOA has ~160 members all riparian owners out of ~200 riparian lake owners. In addition there exists a Special Assessment District which has developed a long term management plan for the lake and is the direct management body which involves the watershed district and interacts with back lot owners as well as riparian owners. I serve on that board and have been its chair.

I fully support this legislation. State law has already codified much of this proposed legislation but there exists no penalties and no enforcement for the flaunting of 123 yrs of consistent case law on the proper use of road ends. We are not trying to stop the use of road ends but would like to see them used properly and for the benefit of all not for a few selfish individuals who try to take them over for their personal use and abuse them.

We have had problems over the years with people illegally mooring boats off of these ends, often interfering with others properties, illegal placing of docks, night time mooring without lights in navigation channels creating dangerous safety situations, not to mention littering, noisy parties and damage to neighboring properties. When dealing with situations of illegal mooring and docks we have, despite Michigan legal rulings and US Coast Guard Regulations, been unable to get the DNR, or Sheriff's Department to provide any enforcement. In the winter we have had problems with Trucks and Snowmobiles driving onto the lake causing erosive damage to these road ends and to adjacent properties. People have often used these road ends to store their hoists and boats (non-riparian) often for several years allowing them to rot and create eyesores as well as inhibiting the use of these unimproved road ends for legitimate purposes. I should also like to mention that the placement of docks and mooring of boats also prohibits the legitimate proper use of these road ends.

One last point I would like to make is that in addition to the problems outlined above ~~that we have had~~ there is also the added issue of lake safety because of overcrowding by boats of certain small lakes such as ours. As part of the SAD watershed management plan we have done a lake capacity study and have shown that Lake Lansing often exceeds the number of boats recommended for a lake of its size. There exists on Lake Lansing a public boat launch (as well as two parks) owned, run and maintained by the Ingham County Parks Department. The launch ramp is closed periodically when capacity is exceeded to help maintain safety on the lake. Because of budgetary and manpower constraints there exists insufficient Marine Patrol of the lake by the Sheriffs' department to always be present to patrol and control for safety issues despite their efforts.

We strongly support HB4576 and 123 years of consistent case law on the proper use of road ends and hope that both this committee along with the house, senate and governor will support and pass this bill on behalf of the citizens of Michigan and stop the abuse of our road ends and lakes.

Thank you,

Donald Kaufman,

President Lake Lansing Property Owners and member of Meridian Township Special Assessment District Advisory board for the management of Lake Lansing.